
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 13, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2017

Meeting. The Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) met on November 3, 2017, in Des Moines. Following a closed session, the Board took action on 25 professional practices cases; in 15 of those cases, the Board extended the 180-day deadline for a final decision to allow more time to complete investigations and/or conduct hearings and review proposed decisions.

Executive Director's Report. Executive Director Ann Lebo spoke briefly about plans in Wisconsin to create a permanent license for certain categories of educators. She also briefly discussed some improvements being made to the agency's licensing system. Dr. Lebo noted that the agency is in the process of filling a position for a licensing system support person. The position is classified as a clerk specialist. The agency will also be filling the position of receptionist. Dr. Lebo noted that there are sufficient funds for both positions.

Later in the meeting, Dr. Lebo noted that the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is helping the BOEE improve its website and hopes to complete that work by January. The agency is continuing its efforts in regard to ethics training and to working with Future Ready Iowa.

NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute. Dr. Lebo reported on several presentations she found worthwhile at the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification's (NASDTEC) Professional Practices Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. She noted that Board Member Sara Yedlik and Darcy Hathaway, Attorney and Investigator for the BOEE, also attended.

Dr. Lebo spoke at length about ideas presented for reducing the opportunity for educators to sexually abuse students, identifying potential offenders, and improving reporting. She provided a [link to resources from the conference](#) and discussed several model policies, one of which would require any school staff member who sees a colleague with a student outside of the school and school hours to report the occurrence to the principal or another specified individual. Board members discussed how often they hear teachers say they noticed something but didn't report it because they were not sure and did not want to hurt a colleague's career. Several board members expressed interest in the policy, saying it would relieve school staff of the burden to decide whether to report something.

Dr. Lebo noted other recommended policies that prohibit teachers from contact with students via social media, sharing personal cell phone numbers with students, and providing transportation in the teacher's personal vehicle. She also noted the concerns regarding teachers touching students and how to clearly define inappropriate touch, and she cited a suggested policy that prohibits teachers from touching students "without an educational or health reason."

Legislative Priority. Dr. Lebo noted that the one legislative priority BOEE will have for the 2018 Legislative Session is to remove exact expiration dates from teaching licenses. Instead, teachers would have some flexibility in completing the renewal process within the school year in which the license expires.

ALICE. Deann Cook, Executive Director, United Ways of Iowa, presented highlights from [the ALICE Study of Financial Hardship report for Iowa](#). The acronym ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The report looks at statistics regarding lowans who have income above the federal poverty level but cannot fund a basic needs budget (as determined for their county of residence).

Executive Director Cook noted that at the time of the report, 12.0% of lowans fell below the federal poverty level and another 19.0% fell into the ALICE definition. This means that the ALICE threshold for Iowa is 31.0%, the lowest among the 13 states that participate in the ALICE Project. She cited low-wage jobs, wages that do not keep pace with the cost of living, and lack of affordable housing near available jobs as problems in Iowa, and said that Iowa has the highest percentage of workers who leave their county of residence for employment. Executive Director Cook recommended that board members try the [ALICE Simulator](#), a website that steps through the choices that must be made by ALICE households.

Administrative Rules. The Board approved the Notice of two proposed administrative rule changes, both resulting from statutory changes enacted in the 2017 Legislative Session:

- IAC 282.13 – Addresses the mentoring requirement for a standard license and requirements for a computer science endorsement.
- IAC 282.13, 282.15, 282.16, 282.18, 282.21, and 282.22 – Clarifies and provides technical changes; broadens the language for a substitute teaching authorization to allow for a “bachelor’s degree or higher.”

Waiver. The Board approved a substitute teaching authorization waiver for an individual who holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree but no qualifying bachelor’s degree.

Executive Director’s Salary. The Board approved a salary increase for Dr. Lebo to \$128,898, the maximum allowed for her position, representing a 3.1% increase.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Educational Examiners is a telephonic meeting on December 6, 2017. Additional information on the Board’s meetings and agenda materials can be found [here](#).

LSA Staff Contact: Robin Madison (515.281.5270) robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov